

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 ARA-10 EA-10 /104 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7462

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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TAGS: PLO, UNGA, XF

SUBJ: PLO PRESS BRIEFING AT UN, NOV. 14

ACCORDING UN PRESS SPOKESMAN, PLO DEL MEMBER AL-SHAATH
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN PRESS BRIEFING NOV. 14:

1. ARAFAT LEFT US NOV. 14 "QUITE HAPPY ABOUT THE BRIEF

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VISIT AND THE WELCOME HELD FOR THE DELEGATION TO THE UN. HE

IS PLEASED WITH ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS SAFETY AND MOBILITY, AND HAS BEEN FLOODED WITH TELEGRAMS, LETTERS AND TELEPHONE CALLS FROM AMERICANS WHO EXPRESSED THEIR FEELING OF SUPPORT AND HE FELT EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR EXPRESSING THEIR HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME.". SHAATH ADDED THAT THOUGH ARAFAT WOULD HAVE LIKED TO REMAIN FOR PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S SPEECH, SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, THE TRIP TO CUBA AND HIS DESIRE "NOT TO FURTHER INCONVENIENCE NEW YORK COMMUTERS" LED TO HIS DECISION TO LEAVE EARLY IN THE MORNING.

2. QUOTE A VERY EARLY DRAFT UNQUOTE HAS BEEN CIRCULATING ON PALESTINE PROBLEM, SHAATH SAID. IT INCLUDES A GUARANTEE AND REAFFIRMATION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO THEIR LAND; RIGHT FO SELF-DETERMINATION, INCLUDING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE; RIGHT OF STRUGGLE, AND RIGHT TO REQUEST AID TO ESTABLISH AND ACHIEVE EARLY RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. SHAATH SAID THERE HAVE BEEN MEETINGS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION, INCLUDING SOME CONDUCTED BY ARAFAT, AND ADDED THAT HE HOPED DRAFT WOULD BE IN FINISHED FORM NOV 14.

3. SHAATH SAID THERE HAVE BEEN NO POLITICAL CONTACTS WITH USG AUTHORITIES BUT THERE HAVE BEEN SECURITY AND INFORMATION CONTACTS THAT WERE QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN ALL ASPECTS. HE ADDED HIS APPRECIATION FOR NEW YORK POLICE AND SECRET SERVICE COURTESY, DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT.

4. SHAATH SAID ARAFAT HAD MET MANY PEOPLE BUT HAD HAD NO QUOTE SECRET HUDDLES UNQUOTE. SHAATH SAID ARAFAT HAD MET WITH SENATOR ABOUREZK AT EGYPTIAN UN RECEPTION NOVEMBER 13 AND THAT PLO DELEGATION MET NOVEMBER 14 WITH US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH PLEASED PLO BECAUSE QUOTE WE ARE HAPPY TO MEET WITH ANYBODY IN THE US WHO HAVE QUESTIONS TO ASK US. THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE UNQUOTE. SHAATH LATER ELABORATED ON AMERICAN-PLO RELATIONS, STRESSING IMPORTANCE IN PLO VIEW OF BRINGING THEIR SIDE OF STORY TO AMERICANS.

5. SHAATH EXPRESSED PLO GRATITUDE FOR PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S SPEECH AND PRIDE IN PLO-LEBANESE RELATIONS BECAUSE LEBANON UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS BEEN HOST COUNTRY FOR PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT.

6. SHAFIQ AL-HOUT, PLO DEL SPOKESMAN ALSO PRESENT, DENIED STORY THAT BODYGUARDS WITH ARAFAT PARTICIPATED IN KHARTOUM MURDERS.

7. RESPONDING QUESTION RE FORMATION PALESTINE GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, SHAATH SAID THAT IN VIEW OF UN QUOTE RECOGNITION

UNQUOTE PERHAPS PLO CAN OPERATE WITHOUT GOVT IN EXILE,
THOUGH IT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED FOR SOME TIME.
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